

The Preposition

3h. A **preposition** is a word that shows the relationship of a noun or pronoun to another word.

EXAMPLES The helicopter flew **above** the mountains. [The preposition *above* shows the relationship of *mountains* to *flew*.]

The rug **near** you needs cleaning. [The preposition *near* shows the relationship of *you* to *rug*.]

By using a different preposition, you can change the relationship of *mountains* to *flew* and of *you* to *rug*.

EXAMPLES The helicopter flew **behind** the mountains.
The rug **underneath** you needs cleaning.

Commonly Used Prepositions

about	before	for	out	unlike
above	behind	from	over	until
across	below	in	past	up
after	beneath	inside	since	upon
against	between	into	through	with
along	beyond	like	throughout	within
among	by	near	to	without
around	down	of	toward	
as	during	off	under	
at	except	on	underneath	

EXERCISE A Underline the prepositions in each of the following sentences. Hint: Some sentences have more than one preposition.

Examples 1. During the break, Felicity rested her head upon her arms. [The preposition *During* shows the relationship between *rested* and *break*. The preposition *upon* shows the relationship between *head* and *arms*.]

2. Clint looked for the healthiest puppy of the litter. [The preposition *for* shows the relationship between *looked* and *puppy*. The preposition *of* shows the relationship between *puppy* and *litter*.]

- Are gloves and hats on sale this week? [Which word shows the relationship between *Are* and *sale*?]
- Tommy's parents will serve as chaperones during the dance. [Which word shows the relationship between *serve* and *chaperones*? Which word shows the relationship between *serve* and *dance*?]
- Saturday is the busiest day of the week for our family.
- We rested underneath the huge branches of a shady tree.

5. The dump truck rumbled into the construction site.
6. Noises from another classroom came through the walls.
7. Everyone except Erik returned to the sideline.
8. I have not felt well since yesterday.
9. The raccoon scampered across the yard and disappeared into the hedge.
10. Diane saw a dragonfly outside the window.

A preposition may be made up of more than one word. Such a preposition is called a *compound preposition*.

EXAMPLE Jimmy walked **in front of** Susan. [The preposition *in front of* shows the relationship of *walked* to *Susan*.]

Commonly Used Compound Prepositions

in front of	instead of	next to	out of	up to
-------------	------------	---------	--------	-------

EXERCISE B Underline the preposition(s) in each of the following sentences. Remember to underline all words in a compound preposition. Hint: Some sentences have more than one preposition.

Examples 1. Instead of the leather coat, I bought the wool sweater. [The words *instead of* show the relationship between *bought* and *coat*.]

2. Gwyneth sits next to Jamal in science class. [The words *next to* show the relationship between *sits* and *Jamal*. The word *in* shows the relationship between *sits* and *class*.]

11. In front of the building, a delivery truck was parked. [Which words show the relationship between *was parked* and *building*?]
12. Alex, you may spend up to ten dollars on the gift. [Which words show the relationship between *may spend* and *dollars*? Which word shows the relationship between *may spend* and *gift*?]
13. The kitten batted the ball under the sofa.
14. The guests helped themselves to the celery on the plate.
15. Will you bring me the scissors when you finish with them?
16. The students filed out of the classroom when they heard the fire alarm.
17. The next meeting will be at our house.
18. Place the lamp near the chair but not next to it.
19. Instead of beef, Morty put spicy chicken in the enchiladas.
20. The pancakes were taken out of the pan and placed on a platter.